

**WRITTLE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15th OCTOBER 2008
AT ROOM 19 LONGMEADS @ 7.30 pm.**

PRESENT:

Mr. J. Drake (Chair)	Mr R J Bray
Mr. C. J Hibbitt	Ms. M. Barratt
Mr. R. Sherwin	Mrs. B. Laflin

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. R. Gray	Clerk
Mr. A. King	Writtle Scouts
Mr. D. Lyndon	arrived 8.17pm
Mr. E. Gallagher	WSSC arrived 8.10pm
Mr. M. Percival	WSSC arrived 8.10pm
Mr. D. Beckett (Chair)	Writtle Minors

APOLOGIES:

Ms. L. Bowser	
Mr. A. Sach	
Mr. S. Rawlins	Writtle Scouts

1. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

No comments

2. APOLOGIES

See above

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5th AUGUST 2008

Minutes approved

4. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

None

5. MATTERS ARISING

- 5.1 Pleasure Bit Playground Revamp. The Grant application now with ECC. Messrs. Hibbitt, Bray and Barratt with Clerk completed Grant applications (now submitted) to Essex Community Foundation and Awards for All. The ECC Grant decision is expected in November 08. WPC will match Grant funding.
- 5.2 Youth Club. Still only 2/3 people only attend youth club. CH and RB to meet Junior School Headmistress to discuss matters further. Upon instructions from E and F the Clerk has not paid the YMCA account as yet. A new Headmaster at Hylands School is setting up a new youth club for an older age group which may warrant support. When WPC supported the youth club it was expected 40/50 persons would attend and it could be Hylands might reduce vandalism/hooliganism if it is successful in the future. WPC wish to ensure value for money re supporting causes and the youth club situation will be discussed with all parties further to see this is achieved. The Vicar is also unhappy at the current attendance situation. Charges for attending Youth Clubs also discussed and all agreed they must be reasonable.
Other future possible activities for youths were discussed and it was generally accepted that, for success, the activity must be stimulating and adventurous. Doubts exist as to whether this is currently achieved.
- 5.4. Oxney Play Area. Cllr. Barratt advised that on the 11th September Mr. David Archer said the new roundabout would be installed within 3 weeks. As this is not yet the case the present situation re fitting new equipment to be confirmed.
- 5.5. Hard Play Area fees. Anne Lockhart advised of increases in fees. Condition of Astro Turf also reviewed and all agreed maximum life perhaps two years. As

discussed later it is felt re turfing will be somewhat less than £40k and a detailed business plan is required.

6. MATTERS TO BE RAISED BY AND WITH SCOUTS

- 6.1. The Clerk reported re the Scout Lease that WPC have paid Gepp's account which may be interim. Also a bill for the Scout's has been prepared by WPC for repayment of these charges which are borne by the Scouts.
- 6.2. Car parking outside Scout's hut for disabled also discussed and positioning of CCTV and its benefits for the scout's reviewed. The scout's approval, amongst others, will be obtained re-siting of CCTV.

7. MATTERS DISCUSSED BY AND WITH WRITTLE SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

- 7.1. Firstly, the latest vandalism to WSSC hall reviewed. The Clerk has requested from a glazier, recommended by Cllr. Bray, immediate repairs to the glass door. Chair Drake will advise of suitable plumbers to repair the drainage system on the roof and side of building. Lead will not be used as a replacement for the stolen piping.
- 7.2. Cllr. Hibbitt re PCSO's advised that WPC are now seeking to ensure the village/playing fields has proper Police cover. PCSO's are still not attending this Committee and its Meetings and to ensure proper coverage all crimes must now be reported to the Police. This will highlight the amount of crime taking place in the vicinity.
- 7.3. CCTV. The current situation discussed in full and all agreed a good idea. Siting of the cameras still to be finally resolved as mentioned above. WSSC will be consulted as necessary before final decisions are taken.
- 7.4. Litter Bins. Cllr. Sherwin, a Member of the Fire Service, advised that the Wheelie Bins are highly flammable and are an easy target for hooligans. As some are situated by WSSC they need to be, if possible, placed in a secure compound. All agreed this is necessary and it will be looked at in detail.
- 7.5. External decoration of WSSC building. External decoration was discussed and WPC confirmed their obligation to meet costs of this. The building needs painting and a new window frame and 3 quotes will be obtained for the work.
- 7.6. Disable Parking at WSSC raised and all agreed, as with the Scouts Hut, that proper facilities must be made available. The Car Park needs re tarmacing and 3 quotes to be obtained.
- 7.7. The condition of the Playing Fields re weeds examined and all agreed remedial work could be necessary in the Spring or earlier, notably in the bottom field. The fields will be walked to view remedial works necessary as soon as possible. Broadleaf weeds can be a problem but growth in Winter can be limited. WPC will meet relevant costs and feed may also be needed in the Spring. New contractor's bids will be sought for such work.

8. WSSC FIVE YEAR PLAN

- 8.1. Further details of the 5 year plan are awaited. Re other matters, it was agreed the brickwork at the entrance to the pavilion and the disabled ramp needs repair as the brickwork is crumbling.
- 8.2. The Portacabin condition was discussed and power is required. Proper sewage connection to the drainage system is due and WPC will meet the cost. Railings in front of the pavilion were also discussed and it was agreed metal railings are an unnecessary expense.
- 8.3. Re drainage of the sports area it was agreed that use of a ditch connected to the existing surface outfill is the best solution. The original drainage system had been incorrectly connected, not using the solid pipe.

9. PLEASURE BIT PLAYGROUND REVAMP

See above

10. PLAYGROUND VANDALISM

See above

11. OTHER REPORTS

None

MEETING CLOSED at 10.30pm.

NEXT DATE OF MEETING 7th JANUARY 2009